

1. A method for use in managing content resources, comprising:
receiving a request from a user for access to a source of content resources;
determining that the user is authorized for access to the source;
generating content access rules for the user;
5 processing the content access rules together with general content access to
generate a portal Web page based on a set of content element data applicable to the
subscriber; and
returning the portal Web page to the user.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising
10 determining whether the user has subscribed to content resources available from
the source.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising
by a switch, determining whether the user is an authorized user.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the portal Web page includes links to content
15 resources to which the user has subscribed.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising
using the user's IP address in the authorization determination.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of content element data specifies
content type.
- 20 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of content element data specifies
content billing information.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of content element data specifies
content location information.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising
25 allowing the user to make a subscription change affecting the user's access to the
content resources.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising
by a switch, blocking access by another user to the source based on authorization
information residing external to the switch.
- 30 11. A method for use in managing content resources, comprising:

generating a first portal Web page for a first user based on content resource subscription information for the first user; and

generating a second portal Web page for a second user based on content resource subscription information for the second user.

5 12. The method of 11, further comprising
basing the generation of at least one of the first and second portal Web pages on rule information governing access to content resources.

13. A system for use in managing content resources, comprising
a switch for selectively processing resource requests ;
10 a content resource management engine in communication with the switch; and
a billing system in communication with the content resource management engine.

14. The system of claim 13, further comprising
a content resource access control system in communication with the content resource management engine.

15 15. A method for use in managing content resources, comprising:
receiving a request from a user for access to an instance of content resources on a network;

determining that the user belongs to a user category;
determining that the instance of content resources belongs to a category of content
20 resources on the network;

determining a contact access rule that applies to the user category and to the category of content resources; and

applying the rule to the request.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the content access rule belongs to a
25 hierarchically organized group of content access rules that apply to the category of content resources.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the content access rule belongs to a hierarchically organized group of content access rules that apply to the user.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the content access rule is related to other
30 content access rules in a hierarchically organized directory structure.

20. A method for use in controlling access to content resources, comprising:
receiving a first request for user access information, the first request originating at
5 a first network switch;
receiving a second request for user access information, the second request
originating at a second network switch; and
deriving responses to the requests from a serving entity that includes content
access rules categorized by user characteristic.